

ICN Insider



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Meskwaki Settlement Holds Ceremony	1
Federal Broadband Project Update	1
College Graduate, then High School Graduate	2
Change in Program Oversight for RTCs	2
ICN's 2012 Legislative Session Review	3
Employee Spotlight	3
Upcoming K-12 Connections	4

The Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission has submitted the [July 2012 Quarterly Status Report](#) regarding the sale or lease of the network pursuant to House File 45.



Meskwaki Settlement Holds Ceremony



High-speed Internet is on its way to the

Meskwaki Tribe, which will assist in providing the necessary technology advancements for the community.

Earlier this spring, the Meskwaki Settlement held a groundbreaking ceremony for the monumental achievement relating to their federal broadband project, which will bring high-speed Internet service to the Meskwaki Settlement School, tribal center, the health clinic, and homes when finished.

The ceremony was open to the public and included remarks from Joseph Cassis representing ICN, and also comments from Frank Blackcloud, the Sac and Fox Tribal Chair. Janice Eagle Hawk, IT Director for the Meskwaki

Tribe, was credited for her great leadership in the project.

The Meskwaki Settlement is ICN's sub-recipient partner. The initiative is part of ICN's federal Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) project received in July 2010.

Since the ICN is not authorized to provide residential services, ICN's portion of the project will provide the middle mile access path to connect the tribes' community anchor institutions (school, tribal center, and clinic). The

Meskwaki Settlement's segment of the project provides access for Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) for approximately 196 different residential connections.

The overall project has a completion date of June 2013, which has been ahead of schedule.

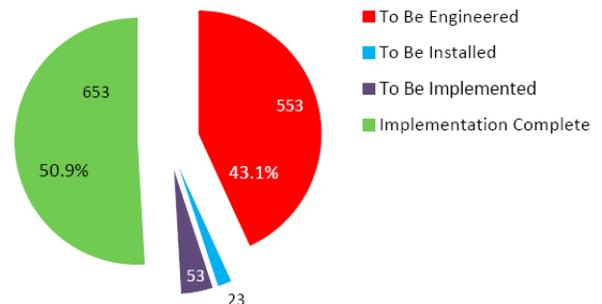
Fiber cable to be routed underground to provide for high-speed access throughout the Meskwaki settlement.



Meskwaki Tribal officials and Joseph Cassis (ICN), in a groundbreaking ceremony for a portion of the federal broadband project that will bring fiber-optics and high-speed internet service to the Settlement west of Tama.

ICN's Federal Broadband Project Update

ICN has surpassed its end of July target numbers, and we are 50% completed with the BTOP project.



**Message from
Dave Lingren,
ICN's Executive
Director**

We have completed the upgrade of our core optics, which now makes the ICN the network that is considered to have the most bandwidth and the most current technology of any network in Iowa, and perhaps the United States. This advancement provides the technology opportunities to rural schools, so they are not islands unto themselves. The largest value of the ICN to rural schools is our ability to connect them to each other thru the aggregation provided to the Area Education Agencies (AEAs). The bandwidth and technology that we provide to the AEAs cannot, in most cases, be replicated by the private telcos and is instrumental for rural schools to be successful.

College Graduate, then High School Graduate

Loryn Brinkopf graduated this year from Hawkeye Community College with an Associates of Arts degree in Liberal Arts, before graduating from Sumner-Fredericksburg High School (S-F High School). Loryn, a senior at S-F High School, started taking college credit courses during her sophomore year, and continued to do so throughout her high school career.

For the past three years, Loryn has enrolled in dual-credit courses (classes that count for high school and college credit) where she earned a total of 62 college credits. She enrolled in history, composition, literature, biology, and diversity courses. Some

of these courses were made available through the ICN. While participating in courses via the ICN, she experienced education not only from the instructor, but also her peers located throughout the state at remote sites. Loryn stated she felt the ICN technology, whether at the instructor or remote site, was "effortless" to use.

This August, Loryn will enter the University of Northern Iowa with junior status. She stated, "The ICN allowed her to learn and experience something truly unique that will lead to further success in academia." Throughout this unique experience, Loryn expressed that the most important lesson

taken away from her experiences was time management. When asked to give advice to students regarding the possibilities the ICN provides, Loryn stated, "All high school students should utilize the educational opportunities at least once." She feels the ICN experience allows high school students the opportunity to get their feet wet within a college classroom.

Loryn is well on her way to success due to her dedication, and the dual credit courses. Loryn felt a desire to thank everyone who helped her achieve her goals during high school. Most notably she wanted to thank Mr. Allen Eckelman, S-F High School Principal, for his support and dedication to ICN classes.

Looking for a high school or college credit course via the ICN, visit IowaLearningOnline.org to learn more information about the opportunities available.

Change in Program Oversight for RTCs

There has been a change in program oversight and appropriation management of the Regional Telecommunications Council's (RTCs) allocated funding. The support provided by the RTCs has been transferred to the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC), which will

administer the pass-through allocation. The Commission approved the process in May 2012.

The process for requesting funding will be similar to previous years, with a few modifications. There are new guidelines, which will assist in providing guidance and transparency within the allocation process. In addition, a new tracking

element is added to provide details on how the allocation and support are benefiting video sites located throughout Iowa.

For additional information visit the new RTC website at www.icn.state.ia.us/RTC.

For specific questions related to the RTC process, contact [Tami Fujinaka](mailto:Tami.Fujinaka@icn.state.ia.us) or [Lori Larsen](mailto:Lori.Larsen@icn.state.ia.us).

ICN's 2012 Legislative Session Review

The Legislature adjourned on May 9, after completing work on the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 budget and several significant policy issues. The following were ICN's bills of interest:

Senate File 2313 included the appropriation to be allocated to the Regional Telecommunications Councils (RTCs) for maintenance of video classrooms, regional scheduling, and Local Area Network/Wide Area Network technical support. The bill included an appropriation for just under \$1 million to the ITTC, and



will be a pass through to the community colleges. In previous years, the appropriation was administered by Iowa Public Television. The bill was reviewed by the Governor, and signed on May 25. Visit www.icn.state.ia.us/RTC for additional information.

Senate File 2316 included an appropriation of \$2,727,000 for Part III lease payments to the Department of Education,

and an appropriation of \$2,198,653 for equipment replacement, which is a reduction of \$50,000 from last year. The bill was signed by the Governor on June 7. Governor Branstad vetoed the section within SF 2316 that required ICN to conduct an audit for appraisal prior to any sale or lease of the ICN. He wrote, "An audit and appraisal is premature and unnecessary. If such an audit is needed in the future one could be conducted at that time."

The ICN, a state agency, is the country's premier fiber-optic Network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing lowans with convenient, equal access to education, government, and healthcare.

Employee Spotlight: Angela Schneider

Angela Schneider will be celebrating her ninth anniversary with the ICN in August 2012. Currently, she is an Executive Officer 1 within the Business Services Division, and works as the ICN Administrator for the Universal Service Fund (USF). Angela also worked as an Accountant Tech 2 for the ICN.

Angela's primary duty is to manage USF distributions for ICN's customers that apply for discounts through the Schools and Libraries (E-Rate) program. Angela remains up-to-date on the continuously changing USF rules and regulations, billing processes, and filing

procedures. She also manages the Universal Service Administrative Company's Rural Health Care Division Program for approved health care providers. Angela is also involved with the Department of Education's Video Consortium.

Angela was born in Medellin, Colombia. Her family moved to Barranquilla City, Colombia until she graduated high school, at the age of 15. Following graduation, her parents wanted her to pursue an engineering degree. Angela spent three years studying, but changed her direction and took the opportunity to visit family members in

Venezuela, which led her to move to New York City, where she attended La Guardia Community College. Within a short time, she accepted an internship opportunity in Kansas City, Missouri, and found her way to Iowa.

Angela earned a BA in Finance from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. She enjoys spending time with her children, taking them to movies, and dancing. Her life aspirations include traveling the world, learning more languages, and understanding more cultures. Beyond holding her children for the first time, the most memorable life experience for Angela was the day she became a full USA citizen.



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Remember to visit ICN's website at www.icn.state.ia.us to keep updated on all ICN related news.



Iowa Communications Network
Grimes State Office Building
400 East 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Phone: (515) 725-4692
Toll Free: 1-877-426-4692
www.icn.state.ia.us

Upcoming Video Sessions for Students and Educator through Iowa Public Television's Connections

School Food Service 2012

Tuesday, August 7 (8 AM – noon) and Wednesday, August 8 (1 PM – 4 PM)
Audience: **School Food Personnel**

This three-day program will provide up-to-date information for all school food service personnel. This 20 hour course contains two School Nutrition Association (SNA) approved classes that meet the Nutrition Education and the Sanitation and Food Safety components in the Level I Certification requirements with SNA.

Registration Deadline - July 20, 2012

Microsoft Settlement Update, 2012

August 28 or August 30 Audience: **Professional Development**

The session will contain information regarding vouchers and claims, external evaluation participation information and procedures for amending applications. A representative from the claims administrator will be part of the session to help answer questions.

Registration Deadline – August 24, 2012

Urban Archaeology and Career Exploration

Tuesday, September 11 Audience: **9-12 Grade Students**

Can you imagine a group of people living on the banks of the Des Moines River not far from present day downtown Des Moines... about 7,000 years ago? Last summer, news of an exciting archaeological dig site started to trickle out in the media. Crews from the University of Iowa's Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) confirmed they had found, and had spent the winter excavating, an extraordinary site near Des Moines. The site contained the oldest human remains, as well as the oldest known structures ever found in Iowa. They called it the Palace Site.

Bring your students (with their imaginations) to participate in this engaging presentation and discussion about the site with staff from the OSA. They'll talk about the artifacts they found and how they use that evidence to paint a picture of the people who lived there and the lives they lived.

Registration Deadline – September 4, 2012

For More Information about Upcoming K-12 Connections Contact:

Marcia Wych or Abby Brown
Educational Services
(800) 532-1290 or (515) 242-4181
abby@iptv.org
www.k12connections.iptv.org

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